

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARSHA MCELLIGOTT

#### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear member of my staff, Marsha McElligott, who will soon retire after nearly 31 years of service to the House of Representatives. I have been fortunate enough to work with Marsha since I was sworn into office in January of 1993, but that was not the beginning of her congressional career. In fact, nearly her entire working life has been devoted to public service.

After graduating from the Katharine Gibbs School, she went to work for my predecessor in representing this district, Congressman Matthew McHugh. She served as his assistant in the Ithaca city prosecutor's office, in the Tompkins County District Attorney's office and then in his private law practice. When Matt was elected to Congress in 1974, she joined him as a caseworker on his staff and stayed through his retirement in 1992. I am very grateful to have inherited her service when I was elected in 1993.

Most of the people in Ithaca, where she's worked for all 31 years, would be surprised to learn that she's never lived in the congressional district. Rather, she's lived all of her life in Watkins Glen, in a neighboring county. It's remarkable for the fact that her knowledge of the communities of this congressional district is so deep and her work has always been so seamless that I think most of my constituents would assume that she had, in fact, been an Ithaca native.

Her service is also unusual in that she has devoted so many years to two members of Congress, Matt McHugh and myself. While we undoubtedly have different styles and have run our congressional offices in different manners, Marsha never missed a beat when she came to work for me, and I doubt that constituents who had received her help ever noticed any transition. They only noticed how very well served they were in her hands.

A congressional career that spans more than 30 years has become very rare, and I fear that there are few Marsha McElligotts left in congressional employment, staff members who are so deeply, personally dedicated to serving the public, serving the Members for whom they work, and upholding the very best goals and ideals of this institution.

I've always said that being a caseworker is the hardest job in a congressional office—it's demanding, it's stressful, and it requires infinite patience and persistence. It takes a very special person to do that job well and for such a long time. I can think of no finer embodiment of these qualities than Marsha McElligott. She has true respect for the role of Congress and for the difference that an individual Member can make in the lives of his or her constituents by providing access to the halls of government.

Like many of our longest-serving and most dedicated staff, Marsha has been relatively anonymous. Constituents may remember for decades the name of the Member of Congress who helped them earn their citizenship, or get their veterans' benefits, or solve a problem with the IRS, but they probably won't remember the name of the staff member who helped them.

That anonymity is a testament to how deeply dedicated to the greater good that Marsha, and staffers like her, truly are. I offer it as a compliment. Some people who work in a public service position for a long time come to be known for their own personalities and their own political careers. For Marsha, her devotion has been to Congressman McHugh and me and to the people of the congressional district. She has been utterly selfless, subsuming her own opinions to be instead the voice of the members of Congress she has served and working always for the good of our constituents, not her own personal gain. Because she is always the picture of discretion, she has the unflinching trust of our constituents, my staff and me.

There are thousands of people in the congressional district I represent—immigrants and new citizens, college students, veterans, people with disabilities, young, old, rich and poor—whose lives have been bettered by the efforts of Marsha McElligott. Marsha's a very modest person, but I believe there's no exaggeration in saying that she's made a difference in the future of our nation, because of her particular devotion to two areas of her work: bringing new citizens into our country and helping to select the finest leaders of our armed forces.

For hundreds of refugees, visa applicants, or those needing help with the naturalization process, Marsha's patience and compassion has meant the difference between hope and despair, success and failure, united or divided families. The long and exhausting process these special cases require have proven no match for Marsha's limitless diligence and desire to serve those in need of help. Many of these cases were presented by people who didn't speak English or didn't know our customs, people who were scared and intimidated. She made a good introduction to these people of what America was all about, and what American government means in the lives of individuals. People who were frightened by the immigration process when they came to our offices were reassured by her direct personal contact, her no-nonsense attitude and the confidence she inspired that she'd sort out whatever sort of bureaucratic mess they were in. A generation of immigrants to the Finger Lakes region from all over the world became citizens because of her.

Hundreds of young men and women seeking appointments to the nation's military academies also have Marsha to thank for their entry into these elite institutions. Marsha's ability to coach these future leaders of our armed forces successfully through the nomination process is worthy of great admiration and praise.

I could go on and on about her professional accomplishments, but I want to close by saying what she has meant to me personally. She has been a pleasure to know and to work with, and I've relied on her wisdom and experience in these 13 years more times than I can count. Day in and day out, she has regularly, faithfully and loyally provided the very best service any Member of Congress could hope for, for more than three decades. I congratulate her as she prepares for this new chapter of her life and know that her husband David, their children and families look forward to spending more time with her.

### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKELEY and Congressman JIM GIBBONS, to recognize the significant contributions of the Nevada Commission on Tourism in leading the United States in tourism marketing and promotion in China.

Since 2002, the Nevada Commission on Tourism has been instrumental in collaborating with Chinese officials to strengthen international ties with this burgeoning tourist economy. The Nevada Commission on Tourism is the first U.S. tourism entity at any government level to be granted a license by the Chinese government to advertise its tourism attractions to prospective Chinese tourists. All of this was achieved in less than 1 year and with minimal costs to taxpayers.

The result of their efforts has not solely benefited the State of Nevada, but has encouraged tourism to all parts of the United States. Statistically, Chinese tourism to the United States has increased by 20 percent from 2003 to 2004, when Nevada was able to achieve its licensing goals. Therefore, through their innovative efforts, the Nevada Commission on Tourism has paved the way for other States to actively participate in marketing to this uniquely lucrative economy.

We are encouraged by the tremendous growth in Chinese tourism and we recognize that there is fertile ground in this burgeoning international travel and tourism market. Further, we are optimistic that other states will follow Nevada's lead and actively begin to market travel and tourism to China, the world's largest market place.

Mr. Speaker, again, we applaud the uniquely monumental efforts of the Nevada Commission on Tourism and look forward to witnessing an even greater increase in Chinese tourism to our State and other tourist destinations throughout the United States.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING JAMES RIZZO ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 23

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Brown, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the twenty-third legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Rizzo was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Rizzo traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 23.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Rizzo is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor him today.

### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DICK PALMER

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Dick Palmer, a Murfreesboro, Tennessee, native who has been the voice of the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders for 25 years.

A 1960 graduate of MTSU, Dick is a Blue Raider through and through. His presence on the airwaves certainly will be missed. For more than 46 years, Dick has been involved in sporting events in Tennessee, from his 9 year stint calling play-by-play for Jackson high school sports to his work with the Memphis Blues baseball team, Memphis Pros ABA team, and Memphis Grizzlies World Football League team.

Although he will be retiring from MTSU broadcasting at the end of this season, I have no doubt that Dick will continue to be an active and valued member of the Murfreesboro community. Not only a family businessman in charge of operations for Palmer Wholesale, Dick also has served as a mentor and role model to countless young people as a Little League baseball coach. I even had the privilege of being coached by Dick when he was my seventh grade basketball coach at Hobgood Elementary School.

Dick's dedication to his community and to the Blue Raiders is truly an inspiration and a shining example of Middle Tennesseans at their best. It has been a pleasure knowing him since I was a young man, and I am proud to call him a family friend. I thank him for all of

his contributions to Middle Tennessee and wish him all the best for his retirement.

### SIKHS ENTHUSIASTICALLY CELEBRATE GURU NANAK'S BIRTHDAY WITH REVERENCE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month, Sikhs gathered from around the world to celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, with devotion, enthusiasm, and reverence. Over 25,000 Sikhs gathered in Nankana Sahib, in what is now Pakistan, for the celebration.

The celebration included reading of the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, the singing of hymns, a procession through the streets, and speeches. One of the speeches was given by Dr. Gunjit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization that leads the Sikh struggle for independence. Dr. Aulakh's speech was punctuated with slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad," which means "Long live Khalistan." Khalistan is the name of the Sikh state that declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

The celebration was carried live on Pakistani television and on Punjab Radio from London, which is available worldwide.

Guru Nanak had two companions, one Hindu and one Muslim. He was a shining example of acceptance of all. When Guru Nanak passed away, his burial shawl was torn in half and burned by the Hindus, and buried by the Muslims. Both Hindus and Muslims revered him.

Yet today, Hindus persecute the Sikhs, the followers of Guru Nanak. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government. According to the Movement Against State Repression, MASR, over 52,000 are being held without charge or trial as political prisoners in "the world's largest democracy." Over 50,000 young Sikh men were picked up by the government, tortured, murdered, and then secretly cremated. Their bodies were declared "unidentified" and never returned to their families.

Christians and Muslims throughout the country are also being persecuted. Over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed by the government. In addition, tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities have been killed.

Are we going to stand idly by and let this happen? By stopping our aid and trade with India and by declaring our support for the fundamental democratic principle of self-determination, we can help bring real peace, prosperity, freedom, and stability to South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's very informative press release about the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Nov. 22, 2005]

### SIKHS CELEBRATE GURU NANAK'S BIRTHDAY WITH DEVOTION, ENTHUSIASM, REVERENCE

WASHINGTON, DC.—Over 25,000 Sikhs gathered in Nankana Sahib (now in Pakistan)

last week for the celebration of the birthday of Guru Nanak, the first Guru of the Sikh religion. About 15,000 were from Pakistan, about 4,500 were from India, and the rest were from abroad. Slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" resonated throughout Nankana Sahib during the day's speeches.

The celebration began with the performance of Akand Path, which is the The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, was read without interruption for 48 hours leading up to Guru Nanak's birthday. Hymns were sung as midnight struck. In the morning, the Pakistan Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PGPC) presented government officials and others with siropas. According to Sikh tradition, the afternoon was marked by a procession led by the Guru Granth Sahib, followed by the Panj Piaras, and then the Sangat, of all the Gurdwaras in Nankana Sahib, ending back at Gurdwara Janam Asthan. The evening program featured speeches given by various Sikh leaders, including Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence. When Dr. Aulakh raised slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad," the Sangat responded with great enthusiasm. The Sikh Nation knows that political power is essential for the enhancement of any religion. The Sikh Nation also knows that the gold was added to cover the building of Darbar Sahib when the Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849. Since then, it is also called the Golden Temple. After midnight the celebration concluded with ceremonies according to the Sikh rehat maryada.

The Sang at showed great devotion and reverence on this pious occasion. Guru Nanak was the founder of the Sikh religion. ("Marya Sikha Jagat Sitch Nanak Nirmal Panth Chalaya.") It was an occasion of great happiness for the Khalsa Panth. The events were carried live on Pakistani TV and on Punjab Radio from London, which is heard throughout the world. Sikhs who were able to participate in the celebration were very fortunate.

Guru Nanak confronted Sabar, the Moghul ruler of the time and called him a Jabbar (oppressor) and spoke out against the tyranny of the rulers of that time. He was even imprisoned by Babar, along with his followers. Guru Nanak travelled extensively, to the Middle East, where he visited Baghdad, and throughout India, along with his two companions, one Hindu, one Muslim. He spread his message of truthfulness, respect for the rights of individuals, earning an honest living, sharing with the needy, and praying to Almighty God. He was revered by Hindus and Muslims alike. When he left this world, his body was not found. The sheet covering his body was torn in two. The Hindus cremated it and the Muslims buried it, each according to their customs.

Guru Nanak is remembered as Baba Nanak Shah Faqir, Hindu Da Guru, Mussleman Da Pir. He preached the equality of all the human race, including gender equality.

Sikhism is a divinely revealed, monotheistic, independent religion which has 25 million followers and is the world's fifth largest religion. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, was written by the Gurus themselves as revealed to them by God. No body can add or delete anything in the holy scripture, which is considered to be a living Guru after the tenth Nanak, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3963, to reauthorize the Long Island Sound Restoration Act through 2010.

The Long Island Sound is a 16,000 square foot estuary that is home to 10 percent of the Nation's population. The Sound provides \$6 billion to the Connecticut and New York economies through recreational activities, commercial boating and fishing, and trade. The New Haven, Bridgeport, and New London ports bring national and international trade to our region, and this valuable economic and environmental resource must be protected. Reauthorizing LISRA will enable us to do that.

One of the greatest threats to the Long Island Sound is excessive nitrogen loading that causes hypoxia or low dissolved oxygen in the water that reduces the amount of healthy habitat necessary to support fish and shellfish. This is a problem that can be combated by upgrading sewage treatment plants to remove nitrogen from waste water, and Connecticut, New York, and the Environmental Protection Agency have committed to reducing nitrogen levels in the Sound by over 50 percent by 2014. This strong commitment, however, costs money, and cannot be accomplished without the reauthorization of LISRA.

Through 2004, Connecticut received \$7.8 million in federal funding to assist in nitrogen cleanup, and it expects to receive an additional \$1.9 million for 2005. Connecticut has invested over \$150 million of its own money to upgrade sewage treatment plants, and will continue to do so with the help of LISRA. Six communities in my district—Ansonia, Derby, Naugatuck, New Haven, Waterbury, and West Haven—have benefited from LISRA funding, but they cannot complete these much needed upgrades without federal help.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Island Sound is a unique body of water—one of our most precious natural resources—and it must be protected. I urge the passage of this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE OF  
SOLANO COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
SKIP THOMSON**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional value of Skip Thomson's thirty plus years of dedicated service to the citizens of Solano County.

In 1976, Skip Thomson began his career by accepting a position as Appraiser Aide in the Assessor's Valuation Division. Shortly thereafter he and his high school sweetheart, Gail Woods, were married, and within ten years Skip and Gail Thomson were blessed with two sons. Their oldest son, Loren, is a First Lieutenant in the California National Guard and is currently serving our country in Iraq. Their

second son, Brandon, is currently a sophomore at Sierra Junior College in Rocklin, California, and is pursuing a Liberal Arts Degree.

After 16 years of service in the Assessor's Valuation Division, Skip Thomson campaigned for and won a position as a member of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Skip served three terms representing the Fifth District, which encompasses 52 percent of Solano County, including the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, south Vacaville and Suisun City. While serving as a member of the Board, one of Skip's proudest achievements was ensuring Travis Air Force Base the ability to expand if and when necessary.

After leaving his county board position, Skip Thomson was elected County Assessor/Recorder. Under his direction, a plan was developed and implemented that finalized the recording process of a 38,000 document backlog that existed when he took office. For this accomplishment, Skip and his staff were recognized for their achievements in the County's Annual Report.

Skip Thomson has spent his entire career working for his community and for the citizens of Solano County. As he enters retirement, I would like to wish Skip, Gail, and their sons many wonderful years of happiness, prosperity, and good health.

HONORING JOHN BROWN ON HIS  
CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO  
THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Brown, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the nineteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Brown was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Brown traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 19.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Brown is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor him today.

IN PRAISE OF THE RICHMOND  
STEELERS FOOTBALL TEAM**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Richmond Steelers Football Team as they return from the National Youth Football Pigskin League Tournament in Las Vegas. About

128 teams from around the country compete in the Tournament. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

The Richmond Steelers, 200 boys and one girl, under the direction of Head Coach Fred Harris, have long been a story of success in the history of national youth football. The Steelers have won five consecutive California state youth football titles and have compiled a 59–3 record over that span. The team reached their highest mark last year as they took first place in the Midget Division of the Pigskin Tournament.

More than the trophies, the Steelers represent salvation for children who otherwise face numerous hardships. In August 2004, players were devastated by the murder of Terrance Kelley, a former Steelers player and De La Salle High School football star who was on his way to the University of Oregon on a football scholarship. In August of this year, the day before the team's first practice game, beloved Midget coach Waleed Elahi was shot and killed. Waleed and his brother Khalid started an early morning breakfast program to ensure that players had a nutritious meal each morning before going to school.

This year, the opportunity to defend their title was nearly stripped from the Steelers, as they lacked the funds to travel to Las Vegas for the championship games. The team receives no outside funding and relies on membership fees and donations to survive. Steelers President Adrian Muhammad, when asked about the team's situation, said that unless there was a miracle, the team would not be able to afford the trip.

However, miracles still do happen. Once word got out, the community responded, and donations came pouring in. Residents and businesses from Contra Costa County banded together to help the team raise \$30,000 in just a few weeks. With such an overwhelming response, the Steelers were able to make the trip.

The Steelers returned to Richmond with four honors, a first place trophy won by the Pee Wees, two second place trophies won by the Midgets and the Mighty Mites, and the Junior Midget's third place bronze medals. However, for these children and the community at large, the fact that the trip was even made possible is every bit as important as the outcome of the games. The individuals, businesses and community organizations of Richmond pooled their resources and together provided the necessary funding. This effort in support of our children represents the very best in community spirit and is an example of hope that we can all celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the journey that the coaches and players of the Richmond Steelers, and the community in which they live, have traveled this year. Please join me in celebrating their success.

## HONORING DONALD L. WOODS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the tremendous career of Donald L. Woods, who is retiring after more than 13 years of service to the United States Attorney's Office, Western Division.

A Vietnam veteran, Donald Woods served in the United States Navy from 1962–1967. As a young Lieutenant, he was a pilot of anti-submarine aircraft aboard the USS *Bennington* aircraft carrier. From 1967–1982 he flew with Braniff Airlines as a flight engineer and pilot.

In 1989, he became a Certified Public Accountant. From 1990–1992, he served as an investigator with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC. In 1992, he transferred to the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, in Austin, Texas, as an auditor for bank fraud cases.

During the late 1980s, Austin was the site of numerous failures of federally insured banks and savings and loans. Donald Woods was actively involved in the investigation and prosecution of the owners, directors, and officers of these financial institutions. He utilized his accounting skills to investigate and later testify to financial statements and transactions used to defraud federally insured financial institutions and their investors.

Over the course of his career, Donald Woods has demonstrated his commitment to the American justice system and to maintaining the integrity of our financial institutions. Today I would like to recognize his outstanding service to the legal profession and his dedication to the people of Texas and the United States of America.

#### HONORING ADVENTURES IN MURPHY'S BURROW

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding work of Nancy Phillips and all of the other talented individuals who help to create Adventures in Murphy's Burrow, a children's television show that airs on Murfreesboro, Tennessee's local cable station.

Children, parents and all residents of Murfreesboro can benefit from the educational content provided on Adventures in Murphy's Burrow. The show introduces children, as well as adults, to community leaders and government figures. In addition, children take an active part in the show by submitting questions to the show's featured guest.

I commend each and every individual who has worked to make Adventures in Murphy's Burrow successful. Nancy creates, writes, and produces the show. She is assisted by co-producer Steve Burris and Alan Bozeman, director of the Channel 3 cable station. Wayne White designed the show's star puppet, Murphy. Linda Gilbert was instrumental in involving the Murfreesboro City School System in the program, and Marilyn Mathis works to promote the program within the school system and community.

I thank them all for their wonderful service to the community, and I wish them continued success as they create new adventures for Murphy and the children of Murfreesboro.

HONORING LULA TAYLOR FOR  
HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLA-  
TIVE DISTRICT 11

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lula Taylor, a resident of Chautauqua County for her service to the eleventh legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Ms. Taylor has had the opportunity to serve not only as a strong member of the legislature but to her community as a strong community activist.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Taylor traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 11.

Lula is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but in its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Ms. Taylor did during her tenure.

A true testimony to Ms. Taylor can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do.

Lula is one woman who never stops working for the things she believes in. She serves on the County Human Service Committee, Chautauqua County Board of Health, Chautauqua County Health Network Inc. Advisory Board, Office for the Aging Advisory Board, County Home Advisory Board, Safe House Committee, and is an AIDS Awareness Advocate. Her community activism is a true testament to her love of Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Taylor is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

#### RACISM OF INDIAN FOUNDER EXPOSED

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the unveiling of a statue of Mohandas K. Gandhi in Johannesburg, South Africa, set off a discussion about the anti-black racism of the founder of India.

When the eight-foot high Gandhi statue was unveiled, portraying him as a young human-rights lawyer, many leaders attacked Gandhi's anti-black statements. "Gandhi had no love for Africans," said one letter in *The Citizen*, a South African newspaper. "To him, Africans were no better than the 'Untouchables' of India."

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, the dark-skinned aborigines of the subcontinent, known

as Dalits or "Untouchables," occupy the lowest rung on the ladder of India's rigid and racist caste system. The caste system exists to protect the privileged position of the Brahmins, the top caste. Although it was officially banned by India's constitution in 1950, it is still strictly practiced in Hindu India.

Others have pointed out that Gandhi ignored the suffering of black people during the colonial occupation of South Africa. When he was arrested and forced to share a cell with black prisoners, he wrote that they were "only one degree removed from the animal." In other words, Mr. Speaker, he described blacks as less than human. We condemn anyone who says this in our country, such as the Ku Klux Klan and others, as we should. Why is Gandhi venerated for such statements?

In addition, G.B. Singh, a Gandhi biographer, has looked through many pictures of him and never seen one single black person. Gandhi also attacked white Europeans.

Gandhi is honored as the founder of India. These statements and attitudes reveal the racist underpinning behind the secular, democratic façade of India. It explains a worldview that permits a Dalit constable to be stoned to death for entering the temple on a rainy day, that allows the murders of over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 250,000 Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country, including Graham Staines and his two young sons, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. It explains why the pro-Fascist, Hindu militant RSS is a powerful organization in India, in control of one of its two major political parties.

India must abandon its racist attitudes and its exploitation of minorities. It must allow the enjoyment of full human rights by everyone. Until it does so, we should stop our aid and trade with India. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. India must allow self-determination for Kashmir, as it promised the United Nations in 1948, in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, and wherever the people seek to free themselves from the boot of Indian oppression. We should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of the subcontinent in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. The people have never been allowed to have a simple, democratic vote on the matter. Instead, India continues to oppress the people there with over half a million troops.

Mr. Speaker, reporter Rory Carroll of *The Guardian* wrote an excellent article on the controversy about the Gandhi statue. I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

[*The Guardian*, Friday Oct. 17, 2003]

GANDHI BRANDED RACIST AS JOHANNESBURG  
HONOURS FREEDOM FIGHTER

(By Rory Carroll)

It was supposed to honour his resistance to racism in South Africa, but a new statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Johannesburg has triggered a row over his alleged contempt for black people. The 2.5 metre high (8ft) bronze statue depicting Gandhi as a dashing young human rights lawyer has been welcomed by Nelson Mandela, among others, for recognising the Indian who launched the fight against white minority rule at the turn of the last century.

But critics have attacked the gesture for overlooking racist statements attributed to Gandhi, which suggest he viewed black people as lazy savages who were barely human.

Newspapers continue to publish letters from indignant readers: "Gandhi had no love for Africans. To [him], Africans were no better than the 'Untouchables' of India," said a correspondent to *The Citizen*.

Others are harsher, claiming the civil rights icon "hated" black people and ignored their suffering at the hands of colonial masters while championing the cause of Indians.

Unveiled this month, the statue stands in Gandhi Square in central Johannesburg, not far from the office from which he worked during some of his 21 years in South Africa.

The British-trained barrister was supposed to have been on a brief visit in 1893 to represent an Indian company in a legal action, but he stayed to fight racist laws after a conductor kicked him off a train for sitting in a first-class compartment reserved for whites.

Outraged, he started defending Indians charged with failing to register for passes and other political offences, founded a newspaper, and formed South Africa's first organized political resistance movement. His tactics of mobilising people for passive resistance and mass protest inspired black people to organize and some historians credit Gandhi as the progenitor of the African National Congress, which formed in 1912, two years before he returned to India to fight British colonial rule.

However, the new statue has prompted bitter recollections about some of Gandhi's writings.

Forced to share a cell with black people, he wrote: "Many of the native prisoners are only one degree removed from the animal and often created rows and fought among themselves."

He was quoted at a meeting in Bombay in 1896 saying that Europeans sought to degrade Indians to the level of the "raw kaffir, whose occupation is hunting and whose sole ambition is to collect a certain number of cattle to buy a wife with, and then pass his life in indolence and nakedness".

The Johannesburg daily *This Day* said GB Singh, the author of a critical book about Gandhi, had sifted through photos of Gandhi in South Africa and found not one black person in his vicinity.

The Indian embassy in Pretoria declined to comment, as it prepared for President Thabo Mbeki's visit to India.

Khulekani Ntshangase, a spokesman for the ANC Youth League, defended Gandhi, saying the critics missed the bigger picture of his immense contribution to the liberation struggle.

Gandhi's offending comments were made early in his life when he was influenced by Indians working on the sugar plantations and did not get on with the black people of modern-day KwaZulu-Natal province, said Mr. Ntshangase.

"Later he got more enlightened."

#### KEARA SAMMONS OF SMOKEY HILL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishment of Keara Sammons of Aurora, Colorado. Keara Sammons won the individual high school women's cross country State title. Keara was

assisted by her teammates—Lisa Allen, Jeanette Ames, Stephanie Boehm, Steven Bolger, Lindsey Dezman, Nick Donkoh, Grant Duin, Eiger Erickson, Stasia Erickson, Alexander Evans, Luke Fischer, Zachary Fuller, Jennifer Gamboa, Jeanna Hanna, Michael Harris, Corey Jefferson, Michael Kasberg, Sarah Lyle, Andrew Matz, Daniel Mickey, Brittany Nelson, Miriam Olin, Hollee Pentico, Kallie Powers, Stephen Reagan, Matthew Robida, John Sawvel, Matthew Schulz, Matthew Sewick, Erica Smith, Thomas Smith, Erin Stratton, Carter Turnbull, Lauren Vail, Jacob Varey, Casey Vockrodt, Chanel Williams, Teddi Wold, Aaron Wood, Megan Woodworth and Eric Young. Keara and these student-athletes were coached by Greg Weich, Brian Manley, Jeff Bliven and Amy Fox.

Keara continued the impressive streak of Buffalo women who have won 6 of the past 7 State individual women's cross country titles. Keara won by more than 20 seconds, however, her victory was not enough for the Smoky Hill Buffalo girls to win the team title, the first time in 4 years they have not won.

The Buffalos have trained intensively while maintaining a standard of academic excellence throughout the season. It is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

#### HONORING SUZANNE GRIFFITH

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Suzanne Griffith. For 21 years Suzanne has served with the Bartlett, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce. She has truly helped make our community a better place to live and work, and for that we can't thank her enough.

Suzanne began her career with the Chamber as the first full-time employee, and today she serves as its President. That sort of dedication is rare these days and we should all take a moment to mark the occasion.

During Suzanne's years at the Chamber she helped foster remarkable commercial development in Bartlett. What started as a rural community has become a thriving, economically diverse town that has given thousands of families a wonderful place to live and grow.

From 1984 to 2004, Tennessee recognized Bartlett as a "Three-Star" recipient for consistent strong economic growth, expansion, and capital improvements. Suzanne was instrumental in helping Bartlett achieve this record of achievement, and it's a credit to her work that today Bartlett has surpassed the requirements of the "Three-Star" program.

The Bartlett we know and love is in no small part due to Suzanne Griffith's work. We thank her for her vision, her hard work, and wish her well as she retires from the Bartlett Chamber of Commerce.

#### HONORING ANTHONY TERESI FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Teresi, a resident of Chautauqua County for his service to the thirteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Mr. Teresi has had the opportunity to serve not only as a strong member of the legislature but as chairman to subcommittees within.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Teresi traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 13.

Anthony is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many years his efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but in its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Mr. Teresi did during his tenure.

A true testimony to Mr. Teresi can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Teresi is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

#### IN MEMORY OF GARFIELD W. THOMPSON

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Honorable Garfield W. Thompson, 89, a former state representative, a labor leader, and a friend to the Fort Worth community. Mr. Thompson passed away on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

Garfield W. Thompson was born June 29, 1916, in Grandview, Texas. His family made Fort Worth its home when he was a young boy. He was a 1934 graduate of historic I.M. Terrell High School. At the outbreak of World War II he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he bravely served and was honorably discharged. In 1942, he married Dorothy Ruth Williams.

He worked as a waiter for Texas and Pacific Railroad until retirement after 28 years. He then worked as a custodian at the Tarrant County courthouse. There, he served as the president of the Tarrant County Courthouse AFL-CIO union, and he was later elected regional representative of the Tarrant County Central Labor Council.

Mr. Thompson was elected to the Texas House in 1984 and served District 95 for 10

years until his retirement from public office. In addition to his years in public service, Mr. Thompson was chairman of voter registration for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and was an active member of the American Legion, a member and former president of the Ambassadors Club, an elder of St. Peter's Presbyterian Church and a former president of the Men of the Church.

He was granted an honorary doctorate in government from the University of Houston and was a dedicated public servant. He loved and was particularly proud of his Stop Six community. Through all of his grand pursuits, nothing ranked above the love he had for his family.

Today, I would like to recognize and celebrate Garfield W. Thompson's life. It was an honor to represent him in Washington. He was intelligent, thoughtful and a true American. Mr. Thompson will be deeply missed by his family and the people of Fort Worth.

#### TRIBUTE TO F&M TRUST COMPANY

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the F&M Trust Company serving both Franklin and Cumberland Counties in Pennsylvania. On February 5, 2006, the F&M Trust Company will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

In America, numerous organizations have sprouted and grown upon the foundation of service to others in order to ensure a progressive society, creating communities committed to generosity and equality. In December 1905, a group of businessmen, lawyers, farmers, doctors, and merchants met in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania to discuss the organization of a trust company. They wanted to form a corporation that would better serve the community by offering services such as personal guardianships, trusteeships, and title guarantees. One month later, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted the bank a charter under the name "The Farmers and Merchants Trust Company of Chambersburg, PA." By February 5, 1906, the bank opened its doors for the first time.

Throughout the years, banks have been challenged from the depths of the Great Depression through the ongoing consolidation of financial institutions. F&M Trust has met these challenges head on. As banks began to emerge from the depression, our communities witnessed great growth; along with it, the traditional way of banking was changing. The F&M Trust Company began to grow in existing markets and developed new markets by progressively integrating new with traditional products and services. By 1993, F&M Trust became the largest locally owned and managed community bank in Franklin County.

The F&M Trust Company's growth and success can be attributed to many individuals throughout our company's history. While the men who formed the company established the foundation for success, the directors, manage-

ment, and staff of F&M have been responsible for continuing their commitment to communities, customers, shareholders, and employees through the years.

For its commitment to the citizens of Franklin and Cumberland Counties throughout the last one hundred years, I am extremely grateful to the F&M Trust Company.

Happy Birthday F&M Trust Company, and best wishes for many more!

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE CONSUELO B. MARSHALL

#### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in saluting my good friend Chief United States District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall. Judge Marshall has stepped down from her role as Chief Judge and was honored by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association on December 6, 2005, for her lifetime commitment to public service.

Judge Marshall has devoted her distinguished career to the struggle for civil rights, justice and tolerance for all people. After service as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, and a period with the firm of Cochran & Atkins, she was appointed as a commissioner on the Los Angeles Superior Court where she was assigned to Juvenile Court, Family Court, and Civil law and Motions. In 1976, she became an Inglewood Municipal Court Judge. In 1977, she was elevated to Los Angeles Superior Court Judge and assigned to the criminal division. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the United States District Court for the Central District of California and in 2001, she became the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of that District—an outstanding achievement.

Judge Marshall is an exceptional woman whose accomplishments are legion. The Los Angeles County Bar Association recently named Judge Marshall the Outstanding Jurist of the Year. She is also the recipient of numerous other awards, including the Los Angeles County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Thomas Bradley Distinguished Citizen Award, the Women Lawyers Association Los Angeles Ernestine Stahlhut Award, the Langston Bar Association Bernard S. Jefferson Jurist of the Year Award, and many more, too numerous to mention.

In addition to her professional duties, Judge Marshall generously contributes her time and energy to many worthwhile organizations. She currently serves on the Los Angeles Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. She served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Weingart Center, a non-profit facility providing health and social services for the homeless, and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. She also served on the United States Sentencing Commission's Drug Violence Task Force which was created in an effort to understand the relationship between drugs and violence.

Judge Marshall was a well respected and admired faculty member of The Rutter Group and the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School and has lectured extensively in many parts of the world.

It is my distinct honor to salute Consuelo Marshall for the exemplary leadership she has shown as a Judge and for her outstanding contribution to the field of law.

#### HONORING JANE FAGERSTROM FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 12

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane Fagerstrom, a resident of Chautauqua County for her service to the twelfth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Jane has had the opportunity to serve as a strong member of the legislature and an active member of the community.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Fagerstrom traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 12.

Jane is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Ms. Fagerstrom did during her tenure.

A true testimony to Jane can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Jane is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I intended to vote against the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and attempted to do so. Upon inquiring with the clerk why my vote was recorded as a "yes" instead of a "no", the clerk checked the electronic record and discovered that I had pressed the "no" button several times on the preceding vote. At no time did I intend to cast a "yes" vote on the agreement. To date, I have voted against every trade agreement that has come up while I have been in Congress, including the agreement with Bahrain.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION  
RECONCILIATION ACT OF  
2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, after five years of setting records for weak job creation, the President is giving us a rosy outlook for our economy. What he fails to mention in his economic pep talks is the elephant sitting in the room—this administration continues to set record debts and deficits, long-term, structural problems that will bog us down for generations to come.

What is our response as a Congress to this fiscal mess? A bill that would cost \$81 billion over 10 years. A bill that would pile on to the deficit that is projected to be \$3.5 trillion over 10 years. I suppose the thinking is compared to \$3.5 trillion, what's another \$81 billion? Only in Washington.

What's worse, the middle class—the foundation of our Nation and our economy will be largely ignored by the bill before us. It's bad enough that working Americans have already been left behind in our economic recovery.

But this bill will essentially raise taxes on 17 million American middle-class families by failing to protect them from the Alternative Minimum Tax. Make no mistake, they will not get real protection from yesterday's fig-leaf AMT bill, and they will get nothing from the bill before us today.

We are considering more of the same. More debt, more deficits, more working Americans who are ignored.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill and "yes" on the sensible Rangel substitute, which will allow us to really fix the AMT, help the middle class and help working Americans.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND J. MAPA

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2006, Raymond J. Mapa, Senior Property Manager of the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, will retire after an extraordinary 41-year career in federal service. Ray epitomizes professionalism, community outreach and the American Dream.

Ray came to San Francisco from the Philippines at a young age, and was naturalized at the Federal Building and Courthouse he would later manage.

Ray attended the University of San Francisco and, in 1964, began his civil service career with the U.S. Post Office Department. After one year the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service selected him for a "trainee" program in Inventory Management. Ultimately, Ray advanced to the position of Director of the Inventory Management Division.

After holding several positions in the Federal Supply Service, Ray moved to the field of

property management. He left a rich legacy. Managing the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, particularly in the post-September 11 era, presents significant challenges. Ray's focus on building security led to close cooperation with the U.S. Marshals Service, the Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement. This collaboration contributes to the safety of all building tenants and visitors.

As tenants of the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, my staff and I appreciate Ray's steadfast commitment to customer service. He instilled these high standards in his employees and it has resulted in a superior level of customer satisfaction.

As Ray's career draws to a close, I wish him, his wife Emma, and his children Christopher, Penny, Renee and Angela—the best life has to offer. Finally, to Raymond's grandchildren, Raymond and Emma, and his future grandchildren, I offer my wishes for the brightest of futures, guided by the stars of your grandfather's great accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Lowell High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. On Saturday, November 26, 2005, the Lowell High School Football Team won the Class 4A State Championship game.

The people of Lowell, as well as the entire Northwest Indiana community, can be proud of the following members of the football team: Michael Kreczmer, Jeffrey Clemens, Zach Porras, Jacob Gill, Zachary Zolmer, Scott Gray, James Ritter, John Black, Lukas Palmer, Jonathan Cap, Joshua Kuiper, Christopher Jacobson, Max Znika IV, Michael Dowling, Christopher Briggs, Christopher Lampa, Johnny Underwood, Joshua Lofrano, Chad Small, Mark Puskar, Steffan Peck, Christopher Thompson, Dean Frigo, Jeffrey Barker, Timothy Lukasik, Matthew Garton, Joseph Carlson, Daniel Remboski, Paul Demro, Ethan Winel, Tyler Overdorf, Eugene Wentworth, Kaleb Layman, David Lang, Anthony Hurst, Ryan King, Trenton Keelen, Nicholas Traficanti, Andrew Steuer, Chris Caputo, Matthew Heabel, Brandon Werblous, Jed Travis, Joshua Hayden, Robert Becker, Jr., Jon Sgouroudis, Mark Lunsford, Michael Staniewicz, Randy Layman, Eric McGee, Joe Wojcik, Justin Jackson, Gerald Jackson, Ben Rigby, Eric Roadruck, Dustin Warren, Robert Stluka, Mina Jae Park, Manager Sagan Roney, and Manager Lindsay Rothas.

In addition, I would like to recognize the other members of the Lowell State Championship Team: Athletic Trainer Bobby Wong; Student Trainers Ashley Barragan, Jessica Besaw, Nicole Carlson, Courtney DuBord, Nicole Ford, Samantha Norfleet, Krystal Pigg, and Stephanie Revere; the Varsity Cheerleaders, Junior Varsity Cheerleaders, and their coaches—Cindi Blandford, Linda Glaze, Druanne Smith, and Don Bales. The team's

success is also due to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers and coaches. In particular, Kirk Kennedy, Jim Carlson, Jim Kiechle, Keith Kilmer, Brad Stewart, Trent Staggs and Ed Miracle should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches. Additionally, Lowell Principal James Koger and Assistant Principals Mike Chelap and Ben Ingram should be recognized for their strong support of the football team. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication. Their effort, determined preparation, and rigorous approach have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Lowell High School Football Team for their commitment to excellence, as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders, and I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top!

THREE MONTH EXTENSION OF THE  
PATRIOT ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to extend the PATRIOT Act for three months so that conferees may go back to the bargaining table and produce a conference report that is truly bipartisan and bicameral.

The conference report scheduled for debate this week completely ignores the many concerns expressed by Democrats and Republicans, civil libertarians both left and right, prosecutors and defenders, librarians, gun owners and religious groups. It is in fact facing a bipartisan filibuster in the Senate.

That is why Senator LEAHY and I are introducing a 3-month extension of the PATRIOT Act. It will allow the government uninterrupted use of these authorities until the Congress can agree on reasonable checks and balances that will make sure the war on terror doesn't become a war against innocent Americans.

HONORING TARA HALL VIELE FOR  
HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE  
DISTRICT 14

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tara Hall Viele, a resident of Chautauqua County for her service to the fourteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Tara has had the opportunity to serve as a strong member of the legislature and an active member of the community.



The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Tara traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 14.

Tara is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Tara did during her tenure.

A true testimony to Tara can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. In the future Tara will continue to better Chautauqua County as she raises her two sons and provides a strong education to her students at Jefferson Middle School.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Tara is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT W.  
LAZAR

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Robert W. Lazar, a man who has made tremendous contributions for small businesses throughout the state of New York, and our nation. Mr. Lazar has graciously served our business community through the New York Business Development Corporation (NYBDC) for the past 35 years.

Mr. Lazar carries with him an extensive and impressive record of helping small businesses across the state of New York. He began his service with the NYBD in 1971, and since that time he has successfully operated in a number of roles within the organization. Since 1987, Mr. Lazar has served as the President and CEO and has been credited with leading his company to unprecedented growth.

With over 1.7 million small businesses in New York, the NYBDC serves a vital role in our state by assisting these businesses in obtaining the financial assistance they so desperately need to start and grow an enterprise. In addition, NYBC also provides much needed credit opportunities to the increasing number of minority and women-owned firms—many of which have difficulty in accessing these types of options elsewhere.

The contributions he has made to our state's small businesses during his tenure at NYBDC have been endless. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Lazar in both my capacity as a Member representing Brooklyn, and as the Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee. Some of my fondest memories over the past years include visiting small business owners together, hearing about the aspirations, dreams, and challenges our local businesses are facing, and working to help meet their needs. Small busi-

nesses throughout New York have been fortunate to have such a dedicated, and successful, advocate as Bob working to ensure firms have access to capital and opportunity—and we are lucky that his efforts on behalf of small businesses will continue forward.

Throughout the years, Mr. Lazar has created a long list of accomplishments and has received numerous awards for his services. Mr. Lazar has been a steadfast advocate for small business legislation both in New York and Washington. Because of his efforts, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 lending program, one of the most widely used small business loan programs, is now a more viable source of small business lending for entrepreneurs throughout the nation. In addition, as the President of NYBDC, he has played a key role in helping to expand the use of SBA programs, and in contributing to the development of new loan programs through public-private partnerships. These accomplishments benefited not only New York small businesses—but also entrepreneurs nationwide.

In 2000, he was recognized as the "Small Business Advocate of the Year" in the state of New York by the Empire State Development Corporation. He was named as "Entrepreneur of the Year Award" in 2004 by Capital District Business Review, and has been honored with several leadership awards over the past few years. The truth is that Bob could have been recognized as "Small Business Advocate of the Year" every year.

He has served New York's small businesses with tireless dedication, effort and success. The doors he has opened for women and minority business owners, and the assistance Mr. Lazar has granted to aspiring entrepreneurs across the state have been an invaluable asset—and these achievements have set the path for the future small business owners of New York. I know that Bob's contributions to entrepreneurs will not end with his retirement—and that small businesses in New York and across the nation will continue to benefit from his dedication.

I hope that the U.S. House of Representatives will join me today in recognizing Mr. Robert Lazar on his retirement—and in honoring and thanking him for his work and dedication to small businesses in both New York, and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO MATT CUNNINGHAM

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2005 at the annual Firefighter Holiday Dance & Awards in Anderson, Indiana, firefighter Matt Cunningham was named Anderson's Firefighter of the Year. Mr. Cunningham, thirty years old and a lifelong resident of Anderson, was honored with this award because of his dedicated service to the community and outstanding record within the Anderson Fire Department and Engine Co. 6. The award, a medallion for his dress uniform, was presented by the Evening Exchange Club of Anderson.

Mr. Cunningham exemplifies all that is good with this Nation's local first responders. During this year alone, Mr. Cunningham has assisted with or single-handedly pulled four individuals

from burning structures. His courage, selflessness and devotion are to be commended and serve as an example to us all.

Only in his third-year of firefighting, Mr. Cunningham clearly has found his calling. At the awards ceremony he stated that firefighting "was something I stumbled into and I'm elated I did." He continued, "I love being in Anderson. I love it. The fire department in Anderson stays busy."

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to hear such enthusiasm. Matt Cunningham serves his community as a firefighter of the highest caliber, and I am proud today to honor and recognize him for being named Firefighter of the Year in Anderson, Indiana.

HONORING TONY CLARK ON THE  
COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Tony Clark has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Tony has been a wonderful addition to the office and has performed many great services to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Tony now must return to Tennessee for his final semester at Vanderbilt University. In May, he will graduate with a degree in Technology and Public Policy Studies. Tony has made the Dean's List every semester, an accomplishment that comes as no surprise to me after witnessing the dedication that goes into every task he undertakes.

During his internship, Tony has been a tremendous help to me and my staff as he has assisted us in various projects. He has addressed constituent concerns, created booklets to let teachers know about educational resources available from federal agencies and endeared himself to visitors as he guided them through the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Tony has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have appreciated his hard work and eager attitude. I wish him all the best in the future.

AKALI LEADERSHIP BETRAYS  
SIKH NATION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, leaders of the Akali Dal, the predominant Sikh party, walked out of a seminar in Lahore after Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, Preside: of the Council of Khalistan, predicted that India will break up. The Akali leaders said "We came to unite, not to divide India."

In front of an audience of about 1,500 people, Dr. Aulakh predicted that Kashmir will soon be free and India will break into five or six separate countries, including Khalistan. Former Home Minister L.K. Advani, President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has said that "if Kashmir goes, India goes." Steve Forbes of Forbes magazine predicted in his magazine



that India will break apart as the Austro-Hungarian Empire did.

The Akali leaders who walked out were clearly representing the Research and analysis Wing (RAW), the intelligence operation of the Indian government. Yet as Inderjit Singh Jaijee reported in *The Politics of Genocide*, more than 250,000 Sikhs were murdered by the Indian government, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy. Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of these political prisoners have been held since 1984.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has apologized for the November 1984 Delhi massacres in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed. This establishes the guilt of the Indian government beyond any doubt. If he really wants to make amends, he should end India's occupation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

India has also killed over 300,000 Christian in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. Tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians have been killed in other parts of the country. India is not a single country, but a multinational state that cannot hold together. We must do our part to see that this happens peacefully by supporting self-determination for all the people of South Asia. We should also cut off our aid to India and our trade as well until basic human rights are observed fully and enjoyed by all.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan's recently issued a press release about the betrayal of the Sikhs by the Akali Dal. I would like to put this release into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues and the people.

#### AKALIS AGAIN BETRAY SIKH NATION

WASHINGTON, DC, NOV. 22, 2005.—On November 17, 2005, the Akali Dal again showed its true colors, as its leaders walked out of a seminar in Lahore after Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, predicted the breakup of India during a speech in support of liberating Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. The Sarbat Khalsa passed a resolution on April 29, 1986 for a free Khalistan and established the Panthic Committee. The Panthic Committee declared Khalistan's independence on October 7, 1987, forming the Council of Khalistan to lead the independence struggle.

About 1,500 people attended the seminar. Dr. Aulakh predicted that Kashmir will soon be free and India will break up into six or seven countries' and Khalistan will be free. The Akali leaders said, "We came to unite, not to divide India." This was a clear indication that those leaders were representing RAW, not those of the Sikh Nation. True Sikhs pray every morning "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa" ("the Khalsa shall rule.") Former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh has said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and reported in the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjeet Singh Jaijee. It has also killed more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and thousands of Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country, as well as tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits ("Untouchables," the dark-skinned aboriginal people of South Asia), Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities.

The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Amnesty International reported that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Cases were registered against dozens of Sikhs for raising the Sikh flag at the Golden Temple on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attack in the presence of over 30,000 Sikhs. Warrants have been issued for their arrest. The flag of Khalistan was also raised on Republic Day, January 26. 35 Sikhs were arrested at that time. Some of them have been denied bail.

Recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formally apologized to the Sikh Nation for the genocide against the Sikhs in November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed just in Delhi and surrounding areas while Sikh police were locked in their barracks and Indian radio and television called for more Sikh blood. This apology establishes the Indian government's responsibility for the genocide against the Sikh Nation. India must end its occupation of Khalistan, which is the root cause of this genocide. Sikhs are a sovereign nation and they are fighting for their freedom.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries. Steve Forbes, writing in *Forbes* magazine, said that India is doomed to disintegrate like the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "India is not a homogeneous state," Forbes wrote. "Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering, and the Hapsburgs lost their throne." India is doomed to fall apart just as Austria-Hungary and the others did.

"We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must continue to press for the liberation of Khalistan," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. India claims to be a democracy. It is time it recognized the right of self-determination for all people in South Asia."

#### HONORING VIVIAN TAYLOR FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE JAMESTOWN CITY COUNCIL

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vivian Taylor, a resident of Chautauqua County for his service to the people of Jamestown as a member of the Jamestown City

Council. Vivian has had the opportunity to serve as a strong member of the council and an active member of the community for many years.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Taylor traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Jamestown.

Vivian is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many years his efforts to better Jamestown have left a lasting impression not only on the city itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the council. Our city and our residents are better for the undying work Mr. Taylor did during his tenure.

A true testimony to Vivian can be found in many areas of the county and in the many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. What a true honor it must have been to pass the torch along to his grandson, Michael Taylor, as he ascended into the council. The Taylor family legacy is one to be respected and I'm sure it will continue for years to come.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Vivian is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT OF 2005

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, throughout this year, myself, my colleagues, and our staff have been bombarded by physician lobbyists desperate to prevent a 4.4 percent reduction in Medicare payments scheduled to go into effect in January 2006. While I can empathize with their desire for more money—who doesn't want a raise?—I think it's time that we quell this fevered pitch with a dose of reality and a few facts. That is why I am introducing the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act today.

Without Congressional intervention, physician fees will decrease 4.4 percent next year and an estimated 5 percent reduction for many years thereafter. This is due to what is widely agreed upon to be a flawed formula in the payment system known as the sustainable growth rate (SGR).

That being said, it is important to note that even if the cuts go into effect next year, total spending for physician services would more than likely increase. This is because physicians have been steadily providing more services, and more intensive services, in recent years. While some growth may be desirable—for example providing additional preventive services—data show that much of the current growth has no clinical benefit or may even be harmful. Although I agree that our current SGR mechanism is flawed, I have serious reservations about repealing it without putting

something in its place that will account for the increase in volume and intensity of physician services in Medicare.

At the same time physician groups and members of Congress have been focused on the SGR, other issues with the physician fee schedule have emerged, including the accuracy of pricing for primary care services. These issues, although less well known, are critical to maintaining beneficiary access to high quality care. It has been 14 years since the current reimbursement system was implemented. It is time for Congress to receive an evaluation of how well this system is meeting its goals. In our effort to find a permanent solution to the SGR, we should not miss an opportunity to address these underlying issues.

Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act calls on the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC) to conduct a comprehensive review of the physician payment system, including recommendations on the accuracy of Medicare pricing and alternatives to the SGR. To allow time for MedPAC to complete their work, the bill provides for a 1.5 percent increase for the next 2 years for physicians.

The bill also provides two important additional components. First, the bill protects beneficiaries from Part B premium increases that would otherwise result from the physician update. Second, it repeals the so-called "45 percent trigger," which was created in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to restrict Medicare's general revenue support. If this trigger is left in place, physician increases will force a counter-productive, cyclical effort to cut Medicare spending.

Given problems with potentially unjustifiable increases in volume and intensity of physician services, coupled with other perverse financial incentives in the system, repeal of the SGR is irresponsible and unaffordable. Likewise, the status quo is unacceptable. It is clear that problems with the physician fee schedule go far beyond the difficulties of the SGR, and Congress needs expert guidance to find solutions.

Congress has become quite proficient at short term solutions to Medicare physician payment problems. Unfortunately, this near-sighted view comes at the expense of other Medicare changes that could directly improve benefits or decrease costs for Medicare beneficiaries. This bill lays out a plan for a permanent solution enabling physicians to count on fair annual payment adjustments. It's better for physicians, patients and the American taxpayer.

Numerous proposals have been introduced to find solutions to these payment problems and such a fix is included in the Senate version of the pending budget reconciliation legislation. The concept of pay for performance is also heavily promoted as a potential solution, though everyone should admit that it would take many years for it to be implemented and prove effective.

I think it's imperative we ask the experts for their recommendations before acting, while at the same time ensuring access is maintained and beneficiaries are protected. The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2005 will provide the intellectual foundation to enable Congress to enact a thoughtful, permanent solution for the physician reimbursement system by 2008. I urge my colleagues to consider this approach as the best alternative to ensure that physicians are appropriately paid and beneficiaries are protected.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret that I was unable to be present on the House floor to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 4297: the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act of 2005. This bill will maintain and expand the low-tax environment that has catalyzed our Nation's now-booming economy. I strongly support this legislation. Please be assured that I would have voted in favor of the legislation had I been present, and I look forward to voting in favor of the conference report.

## ONGOING OBSTACLES THAT MINORITY BUSINESSES FACE IN OBTAINING CONTRACTS

### HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I support the extension of the Defense Department's program ensuring that its Federal contracting process in no way supports or subsidizes the discrimination that has long been a problem in the contracting business. The extension of the program through September 2009 is needed to help achieve that goal.

Congress has learned a great deal about the effects of discrimination in denying contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses. The ugly reality is that contracting has long been dominated by "old-boy" networks that make it very difficult for African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans to participate fairly in these opportunities, or even obtain information about them.

Years of Congressional hearings have shown that minorities historically have been excluded from both public and private construction contracts in general, and from Federal defense contracts in particular. Since its adoption, the Defense Department program, called the 1207 program, has helped level the playing field for minority contractors. But there is still more to do, as the additional information we have received since the program was last reauthorized makes clear.

Ever since the program was first adopted in 1986, racial and ethnic discrimination—both overt and subtle—have continued to erect significant barriers to minority participation in federal contracting. In cases, overt discrimination has prevented minority-owned businesses from obtaining needed loans and bonds. Prime contractors, unions, and suppliers of goods and materials have preferred to do business with white contractors rather than with minority firms.

These problems affect a wide variety of areas in which the Department offers contracts, and the problems are detailed in many recent disparity studies, including:

City of Dallas Availability and Disparity Study, Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd. (2002);

City of Cincinnati Disparity Study, Griffin & Strong, P.C. (2002);

Ohio Multi-Jurisdictional Disparity Studies, Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd. (2003);

Procurement Disparity Study of the Commonwealth of Virginia, MGT of America, Inc. (2004);

Alameda County Availability Study, Mason Tillman Associates (2004);

City of New York Disparity Study, Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd. (2005).

The 1207 program helps to correct these problems of discrimination without imposing an undue burden on white-owned businesses. Small businesses owned by white contractors are eligible to receive the benefits of the program if they are socially or economically disadvantaged.

All of us benefit when recipients of federal opportunities reflect America's diversity, and I'm proud to support the reauthorization of the 1207 program.

## CONGRESSIONAL GLAUCOMA CAUCUS TRIBUTE TO STANLEY J. BUD GRANT, PRESIDENT & CEO, FRIENDS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GLAUCOMA CAUCUS FOUNDATION

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, several of my colleagues and I voiced our concerns about glaucoma and its devastating affects to Mr. Stanley Grant. What I will present today is the outcome of that encounter. I am pleased to share with this distinguished body the outstanding work of a responsive and caring citizen, Mr. Stanley J. Bud Grant. Mr. Grant is the President and CEO of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. His leadership has brought to this endeavor the vision, the energy and the enthusiasm that has led the Foundation to achieve considerable success. As one of the Founding Members of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a non-partisan body, I have observed the work of the foundation, first hand, and have watched the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus grow to more than 80 Members.

The mission of the Foundation is to serve as the action arm of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus by providing free glaucoma and vision screenings for at risk groups in congressional districts throughout our beloved country. Screenings for diabetes and hypertension, both risk factors for glaucoma, are documented in the family history, with these screenings frequently being incorporated into the screening protocol.

The emphasis has been on glaucoma screenings since this dreaded eye disease affects more than 3,000,000 Americans and is a silent thief of sight. It can attack children, but is more commonly seen in the later years. Far too many of our people go blind from this disease without even knowing they had it. The true tragedy is that their sight could have been preserved if they had been screened and the disease caught in the early stages. Picture if you will, the boundless joy that the patient and the staff experience when sight is saved.

Since 2001, more than 82,000 men and women from all walks of life have been screened. The early signs of glaucoma were detected in 11,500 individuals. Another 13,000

had vision problems other than glaucoma. Equally important was the fact that 57,000 were given the good news that no eye disease was detected.

One outstanding initiative has been the Student Sight Savers Program. Through this project grants have been awarded to 46 medical schools and teaching hospitals across the country. The aim is to expose medical students to a clinical specialty, ophthalmology in their earlier years of medical school. Through this community service initiative, medical students across the country have screened as many as a quarter of the patients.

We, thus bear witness to a man and his dream. A dream we shared. He joined with many of my colleagues, and myself in seeking to preserve the sight of our people. He convinced glaucoma specialists, other experts and a team of volunteers to follow his lead. Mr. Grant also had the unwavering and committed support of his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Beers Grant. She not only lent him encouragement, but she became quite active in the affairs of the Foundation.

In his indefatigable pursuit, he challenges all of us to match his efforts. He is, moreover, sensitive to the cultural strands of our great nation and the need to seek out and care for those who lack health care services. He has taken his staff on mobile vans into what would be considered inaccessible areas.

This great body has honored many a deserving individual. I am extremely proud to offer a special tribute and recognize Stanley J. Bud Grant for all that he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the American people.

#### REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 106 days ago, the world watched as one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States came crashing down on our Gulf Coast. I spent much of the last weekend in New Orleans, touring the affected areas and speaking with folks about the recovery efforts.

The effects of the hurricane and its aftermath are eerily similar to natural disasters that in recent years have befallen my home state of West Virginia—floods of the 100-year variety.

Displaced families. Businesses boarded up. A sense of despair and unease in the community. Helpless citizens looking for someone, anyone, to provide some guidance to a sound and quick recovery.

The damage done to the Gulf Coast and New Orleans, in particular, is well documented. But so are the promises made to those residents who call New Orleans home. And those promises have so far gone unfulfilled.

Billions of dollars will be needed to rebuild New Orleans. First and foremost, the levee system, which failed New Orleans' residents in the aftermath of the hurricane, must be upgraded to protect from future 100-year storms. Some estimates put that cost at more than \$32 billion—and many in Washington are balking at the price tag.

My question is this: Can't we afford America? We have spent more than \$300 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan, yet this Republican Congress doesn't have a concrete plan to rebuild New Orleans, or the budget blueprint to do it. We are investing billions of American taxpayer dollars for bridges, levees and infrastructure in Baghdad, yet we can't get a commitment from our leaders to rebuild the levees in New Orleans for Americans. We have enacted tax cut after tax cut—most recently a \$95 billion cut for the wealthiest Americans—yet 78,000 American families displaced by the hurricane are still waiting for FEMA trailers in Louisiana.

And what about West Virginia? Parts of southern West Virginia are still recovering from the major floods of the past five years. Many families displaced by those floods have yet to be able to move back to their homes. And we are still unable to secure the necessary investment from the Corps of Engineers to prevent this kind of flood from ever happening again.

It is long past time to look inward and focus on the many issues confronting Americans in America. The flooding of New Orleans exposed more concerns than just the failure of the levee system. Investment in our schools, health care system, infrastructure and homeland security needs to be high on our list of priorities going forward.

This Administration and this Congress have decisions to make. For the sake of all of us who have been—and will be again—affected by severe flooding, it is my sincere hope that they choose to stand with the American people and invest in the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

#### TRIBUTE TO GORDY NEWSTROM

### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gordon (Gordy) Newstrom, who was a true pioneer and visionary in commercial aviation. A long-time resident of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Gordy Newstrom passed away yesterday, December 12, 2005, at the age of 93.

After training Naval Air Cadets during World War II, Gordy Newstrom returned to Coleraine, Minnesota to establish a flight school in 1944. That same year, Gordy Newstrom founded a charter airline service which he named Mesaba Airlines, to reflect its Minnesota roots. "Mesaba" is a Chippewa Indian word meaning "soaring eagle." For several years, Gordy Newstrom operated Mesaba Airlines as a Fixed Base Operator, while sharing his love of aviation by teaching aspiring pilots to fly. In 1950, Gordy Newstrom moved Mesaba's operations from Coleraine to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Gordy Newstrom owned the company for its first 26 years of operation; in 1970 he sold it to the Halverson family of Duluth, who began the airline's first scheduled service in 1973.

Over the years, Mesaba Airlines has evolved into the eighth largest regional airline in the United States, with the distinction of being the nation's oldest regional airline. Although many operators in the aviation industry have come and gone, the airline founded by

Gordy Newstrom celebrated 61 years of continuous service earlier this year. Today, Mesaba Airlines flies to 100 destinations throughout the United States and Canada, through a cooperative agreement with Northwest Airlines.

To honor the many remarkable contributions Gordy Newstrom made to aviation and Northern Minnesota, the region's airport was renamed the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport-Gordon Newstrom Field. It was a well-deserved tribute to the founding father of Mesaba Airlines to honor his vision, dedication and determination.

An avid pilot throughout his life, Gordon Newstrom logged more than 40,000 hours in the cockpit, until piloting his last flight five years ago at the age of 87.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this brief, but deserved tribute to Gordy Newstrom, who gave so much of himself to enrich the lives of others and to serve his community and his country.

#### HONORING RON CEFALO

### HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, in this chamber, we often hear rhetoric of great praise for athletes, authors and statesmen. With great fanfare we announce legitimate accomplishments. Other times the rhetoric is to trumpet our own actions and plans with grand gestures, receptions and press.

An American humorist, Al Capp, once said, "The man who is not trying to reform the world—will!" Those who truly change our world are those who labor daily, without praise, to create a better life for themselves and those around them.

Today I would like to introduce the body to a man who is changing the world—not by doing something no one else can, but by doing something of which everyone is capable, but few choose to do. This gentleman is changing the world one person at a time.

Ron Cefalo, is a science teacher at Box Elder High School. He was recently recognized for his outstanding efforts in exciting kids on a regular basis to the world of physical science. That by itself is something not easy to do. The Air Force Association, after a rigorous search, first named Ron the AFA Teacher of the Year for Northern Utah. Later he was also chosen from the regional winners as the Air Force Association Teacher of the Year for the State of Utah.

In his 37th year of teaching, Ron can claim such accomplishments as sending two projects into space on the shuttle and coaching an award winning Academic Olympiad Team. Each year Ron takes students to the annual Utah State University Physics Day at Lagoon, an amusement park in Utah, which competitively demonstrates the properties of physics to 5,000 kids from Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah. Earlier this year Ron Cefalo's group took home seven awards in four different categories. Ron also won first place in the instructor competition for Curriculum Development. Utah State physics professor JR Dennison noted, "Ron has been participating and winning since the inception

of USU Physics Day at Lagoon in 1990. In fact, Ron was one of the participants at a summer workshop for secondary teachers held at USU in 1989 when the idea for a USU Physics Day was founded. Ron has been a tremendous asset to us . . . in connection with the American Association of Physics Teachers' regional activities and as a source of some of the best students in physics here at USU."

His greatest achievement is his ability to draw students through hands-on projects into his lessons. Even though setting up student lab projects takes extra time, money and effort, it is these demonstrations that shook the school, once literally, and had students clamoring to enroll in his class.

Ron Cefalo knows that the success of a teacher is only as great as the success of his students. As a dedicated teacher, Ron instructs year-round, spending his summers at Johns Hopkins University, working at a center for gifted youth from all over the world. One summer, a gifted, but troubled student from a dysfunctional home intentionally broke a number of items in one of the classrooms. Another instructor considered the boy to be "too dangerous" and kicked him out of the class. The Principal, faced with the option of sending the boy home early, asked Ron to give the kid one last chance. Ron Cefalo willingly stepped forward and took this troubled youth into his classroom and taught him without further incident.

As expressed in the lyrics of Utah's Senator ORRIN HATCH in the song, "Every Day Hero":  
Some people have helping hands that go a second mile  
They're willing to love and lift a brother for a while  
Everyday Heroes live in every neighborhoods.  
Everyday Heroes, helping in the way a neighbor should.  
Giving just a little time; sharing just a little love.  
God bless each one of those everyday heroes.

It was an honor to teach alongside an "Every Day Hero" before coming to Congress, and I personally know the commitment Ron brings to his job and the "helping hands that go a second mile".

Each of Ron Cefalo's students recognize his uncommon talent for making them personally feel important and realize that they have value and someone cares. Every year Ron helps kids mature and learn. Every month Ron gives of himself for others. Every week Ron creates a learning environment in which kids want to participate. Every day Ron makes the world a better place.

#### ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO NAME A POST OFFICE AFTER SENATOR HIRAM FONG

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, Senator Hiram L. Fong gave over 30 years of outstanding public service to the people of Hawaii. He began his career of public service at the age of 31, by serving from 1938 to 1954 in Hawaii's territorial House of Representatives.

Early on, Senator Fong showed his ability to work well with both Democrats and Republicans as he forged a coalition of independents from both parties and was elected Speaker of the House during his first term.

Senator Fong went on to serve 17 years in the United States Senate, where he was the first Asian-American U.S. Senator. After leaving politics, he focused on building a financial empire based on real estate, insurance and financing.

Born on October 15, 1906, in Kalihi, Senator Fong was the seventh of 11 children in an immigrant family. He worked his way through the University of Hawaii and graduated from Harvard Law School.

His public service was distinguished by his ability to bridge party and ethnic lines. He did so by championing civil rights, labor rights and immigration reform. At the same time, he was a firm believer in the free market and the need to stand on one's own feet.

The Senator's electoral victories owe greatly to the support of the labor unions, particularly the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, ILWU. In its testimony in support of the establishment of the Senator Hiram L. Fong Commission by the Hawaii State Legislature, the ILWU stated,

The Senator was a successful businessman and a Republican, but he never forgot his humble beginnings. He was a strong supporter of civil rights and often "crossed the aisle" to cooperate on issues important to Hawaii's unions and workers.

This was recognized by the ILWU Local 142 who endorsed his candidacy and campaigned for his re-election.

It would be appropriate to recognize and honor Senator Hiram L. Fong, who we believe, in his heart and soul, understood what it meant to represent the people of Hawaii without ideological politicized division.

Senator Fong's legislative accomplishments owe greatly to the collaboration and cooperation of Democratic colleagues, particularly the other Senator from Hawaii, Oren E. Long, and Senate Majority Leader, Senator Lyndon Johnson.

Upon the Senator's death in 2004, Frank Damon, administrative assistant to Senator Fong in 1959-61, wrote in a letter to a local newspaper, the Honolulu Advertiser:

A major accomplishment of Senator Hiram L. Fong during the early days of Hawaii's statehood was the passage of Senate Bill 3395 (introduced by his colleague Senator Oren E. Long) which established the East-West Center. The ultimate success of this bill, incorporated into the Mutual Security Act of 1959, could not have occurred without the leadership and political acumen of Hawaii's two new senators, Sen. Fong and Sen. Oren E. Long, a former Governor of Hawaii.

Senator Fong, a Republican, met often and successfully with members of the Eisenhower Administration; and Sen. Long, a Democrat, won the advocacy of Lyndon Johnson, President of the Senate. Our Hawai'i senators persuaded many of their senatorial colleagues to join them, bringing the total sponsors to 49, a number unheard of at that time and perhaps even today. Prominent scholars such as Everett Dirksen, Mike Mansfield, Hubert Humphrey and Robert Byrd joined as cosponsors."

The establishment of the East-West Center was a tribute to Senators Fong and Long. In the early days of statehood the two colleagues collaborated on much important legislation, particularly the omnibus bill, which made Ha-

wai a full and sovereign Federal State along with the other 49. Other important legislation included the Interstate Highway system, the National Parks, full inclusion in the land grant university system, the new Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, etc.

Senator Fong died on August 18, 2004, at the age of 97.

After Senator Fong's passing, the Hawaii State Legislature established the Senator Hiram L. Fong Commission in order to honor and recognize the distinguished political, business and community leader. The Commission consisted of eleven members selected from the Fong family, the Chinese-American community, the business community, the labor unions and the University of Hawaii.

After extensive deliberations, the Commission made seven recommendations on how the State of Hawaii should honor Senator Fong. One of the recommendations is to designate a post office after the distinguished Senator.

That is why I am introducing this bill today, to designate the post office located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu as the Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building. I hope my colleagues will join me in this worthy endeavor.

#### TRIBUTE TO C.A. MACK MCKINNEY

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an American hero, a loyal friend to everyone who wears the uniform of our Nation's military. C.A. "Mack" McKinney, veteran of three wars and distinguished military legislative advocate for over 30 years died November 15, 2005. He was 80 years old.

In 1942, Mack McKinney enlisted with the Marine Corps at age 17 to join America's fight against tyranny and oppression, and shipped off to war. He served honorably and tirelessly for over 29 years and participated in the invasion of Okinawa during World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War before retiring as a Sergeant Major of Marines in 1971. McKinney is the recipient of 16 medals and commendations including the Combat Action Ribbon.

McKinney's service to this country did not end with his retirement, however. Over the next 34 years he lent his time and efforts to improving the recruiting, retention and readiness of the Armed Forces by petitioning Congress for military compensation and benefits packages commensurate with the "extraordinary demands and sacrifices associated with military service." McKinney devoted his talents to a number of organizations dedicated to bettering the lives of America's fighting forces, as well as their families. At the time of his death he was legislative counsel for the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

Mack McKinney began his long public-service career with the Marine Corps League (MCL) and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA). He played a key role in these organizations and was credited with helping stem the losses of highly skilled mid-career military personnel by convincing leaders of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees to authorize two consecutive double-digit pay raises during the late 1970s.

Recognizing that there is strength in numbers, McKinney became a driving force behind the creation of The Military Coalition (TMC) in 1985, and the original 12 co-founding organizations stopped legislation that would have zeroed out retired pay cost-of-living adjustments for a 7 year period. He served as TMC co-chairman, coordinator and administrator—having been reelected as the latter on November 3, 2005. He also mentored numerous TMC organization representatives, imparting them with his vast knowledge of military benefits and the legislative process. Today TMC is comprised of 36 military and veterans' organizations and represents more than 5.5 million active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retirees and veterans of the uniformed services as well as their families and survivors.

In 1987 McKinney was appointed a member of the Veterans Administration Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, a position he held until 1993.

NCOA recognized his accomplishments by establishing an award in his name—the C.A. "Mack" McKinney Award—presented annually to current or former uniformed service members who exemplify professionalism, dedication, and service to the country.

He was also the first ever recipient of the Marine Corps League's Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Award for Commitment, and was honored by the U.S. Coast Guard with the Meritorious Public Service Award "for providing consistent and exceptional support to the Coast Guard."

McKinney was a member of numerous professional organizations and held leadership roles in many of them. He was a founding member and President Emeritus of the Exchange Club of Capitol Hill and helped found the Gang of 30 for the purpose of fostering good fellowship and staying abreast of Corps' activities for active duty and retired Marines. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, First and Third, Marine Divisions Associations, Marine Corps Aviation Association, Congressional Marines, Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the Marine Corps Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. He was also a charter member of and second president elected to head the Combined National Veterans Association as well as a charter member of the Combined National Veterans Associations of America.

In 2004, he was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Award citation reads in part:

Mr. McKinney played a decisive role in winning enactment of virtually every significant legislative initiative affecting compensation and benefits for active, Reserve and Guard, and retired service members...

Above and beyond his enviable work ethic, Mr. Speaker, Mack McKinney's most memorable quality was his impressive knowledge of legislative issues affecting the service member. McKinney could speak to the issues passionately and convincingly, whether it was one-on-one, or to an entire room. He had a way of speaking that drew attention to his words, and his presence commanded attention. Well known at military retiree and transition seminars, McKinney constantly implored service members to stay abreast of the issues that affected their quality-of-life, remarking often that "what Congress gives, Congress can take away."

McKinney was also famous for his sense of humor and was quick with a joke. When remarking about his time in the Marine Corps he would say, "I stayed in 29 years and 6 months because I didn't want to make it a career." In an interview with Navy Times reporter Rick Maze in 2000, he remarked on his position with the FRA, one he held for 10 years: "I've been here longer than all but a handful of Senators and Representatives but I'm not ready to retire. In fact, my wife won't let me. She says she married me for better or worse but not for lunch."

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Mack McKinney worked until the very end to better the quality-of-life for America's veterans and their families. He held strong to his belief that: "There is a lot more that needs to be done, and I'm going to keep trying to do it. Enlisted people need someone looking out for them." I am proud to have known Mack and honored to call him my friend, I will miss him dearly. Mack McKinney is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Rosemarie, three children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I served in a war during which too many national leaders played too much politics.

Tonight is a disgraceful period in the history of our great country and this House of Representatives.

To wage a political war against one of the greatest military champions Congress has known is no less than unpatriotic.

Representative JOHN MURTHA (D-PA), the leading Democrat in the House on military affairs, has proposed a plan of action for Iraq and I commend my colleague for his courageous leadership. The measure that has been brought to the floor tonight is not Representative MURTHA's plan.

Mr. Speaker, it has been this leadership and honesty with the American people that has been lacking in the Presidents position on the war in Iraq. "Stay the course" is not a strategy for success. It is little more than hollow rhetoric that offers no real vision.

We can and should begin to redeploy our troops as soon as possible after the Iraqi people ratify their Constitution in July 2006. In the months leading up to the Iraqi election in July, we need to make it clear to the Iraqi people that we do not intend to occupy their country or maintain permanent military bases there. And it must be made clear to the world that the United States has no intention of controlling Iraq's oil production and oil wealth.

We must find a rational and reasonable way out of this quagmire. We owe it to the men and women serving us in combat, to their families and to all the American people who are paying both the human and financial costs of this war.

Advocates of the measure we will vote on tonight are cheapening the job our brave men

and women serving in Iraq are doing; the men and women putting their lives on the line to serve our country.

Mr. Speaker, those who dreamed up this strategy are derelict in their duties, absent without leave from their duty station; and people I would not want to share a foxhole with.

#### A BILL TO NAME THE KAPALAMA POST OFFICE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII AFTER THE LATE U.S. SENATOR HIRAM L. FONG

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. CASE. Mr. President, I rise today in full support of a bill I have cointroduced to provide a small token of permanent recognition—the naming of the prominent Kapalama post office in Honolulu, Hawaii—of the late, great U.S. Senator Hiram L. Fong of Hawaii, whose long life—he died last August at the age of 97—was dedicated to reshaping, for the betterment of all, the social and political landscape of twentieth-century Hawaii.

Born into poverty in Honolulu on October 1907, Hiram L. Fong was the seventh of 11 children of Chinese-immigrant parents. His father, Fong Sau Howe, originally from China's Kwangtung Province, arrived in Hawaii in 1872, one of 45,000 Chinese immigrants who came to Hawaii to work on the plantations of the islands' once dominant sugar industry. His mother, Fong Lum Shee, arrived in Hawaii when she was 10 years old to work as a maid.

By all accounts, Hiram Fong was enterprising, even as a child. He shined shoes, delivered poi, sold newspapers, led visitors to local tourist spots as well as caddied nine holes of golf for 25 cents.

He attended Hawaii's public schools and was a member of McKinley High School's famous class of 1924, whose 216 members, many of them first-generation immigrants, became some of Hawaii's most distinguished lawyers, business executives, and public servants. Hiram Fong himself became the first resident of Hawaii to receive the Horatio Alger Award for overcoming poverty to achieve great success in law, business, and public service.

As a student at the University of Hawaii, Fong found time to edit the student paper and the yearbook, become a member of the volleyball, rifle and debate teams, and serve as president of the YMCA and Chinese Students Alliance, all the while working at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as a supply clerk. He somehow managed to graduate from the University of Hawaii with honors in 1930 after just three years.

After working at what was then the Suburban Water System of Oahu from 1930 to 1932, Hiram Fong attended Harvard Law School. Upon graduation in 1935, he returned to Honolulu to work as a deputy city attorney.

In 1938, when he was 31, he founded the law firm of Fong, Miho, Choy and Robinson, and entered and won a race for a seat in the Territorial House of Representatives. A member of the Republican Party, he forged a coalition of independent Republicans and Democrats to win election as speaker of the Territorial House, where he would serve a total of 14 years, including three terms as speaker.

Hiram Fong's political career was interrupted by World War II, when he was called to active duty with the Army Air Corps. He served as judge advocate with the 7th Fighter Command of the Seventh Air Force. He later retired as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

As a member of the Hawaii Territorial House, Fong supported legislation designed to help organized labor and working families. In 1945, he supported what became known as the "Little Wagner Act," which allowed agriculture workers to unionize. It was Hiram Fong's understanding of and identification with Hawaii's laborers and plantation workers and fellow immigrant families that enabled him, a Republican in an increasingly Democratic Party-dominated Hawaii, to continue winning elections.

His one electoral defeat, which ended the first phase of his political career, came in 1954, when he lost his race for re-election to the Territorial House seat by a mere 31 votes. Hiram Fong then focused on real estate, insurance, and investments, and established a number of successful island firms: Finance Factors, Finance Realty, Finance Home Builders, and Finance Investment, to name a few.

In the statehood year of 1959, Fong embarked on the second phase of his political career by running for and winning one of the two new United States Senate seats created for the newly established State of Hawaii. He won re-election in 1964 and 1970, and served with honor and distinction, beloved by all in his native Hawaii and beyond, until his retirement on January 2, 1977. At his retirement, Senator Fong was the ranking Republican on the Senate Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

But even then, Senator Fong, as he was universally known thereafter with great affection, returned home and to his various business enterprises and to the devotion of and to his expanded family. Well into his nineties, he was a remarkable sight as he strode through downtown Honolulu on his way to and from work, excited by what the day brought and eager to continue his long string of accomplishments. At his death, his body lay in state in Hawaii's State Capitol as whole generations of citizens paid tribute to a remarkable man who led a remarkable life.

It is both fitting and appropriate that we provide this modest memorial, as he would have wished, in order to remember the essence of public service and a life well lived by Hawaii's quintessential native son, Hiram L. Fong.

CONGRESS SHOULD LISTEN TO  
ETHAN SENSER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues a letter that I re-

cently received from Ethan Senser, a remarkable 7th grade student who attends the Sager Solomon Schechter Middle School in Northbrook, Illinois. Ethan's letter is a persuasive and thoughtful call to action for all of us about the need to prevent global warming and protect the environment for this and future generations.

Ethan not only asks Congress to respond to the looming dangers of global warming and environmental destruction, he lays out clear and eminently doable measures that we can take to achieve those goals. He has provided us with a common sense list of steps to take, from the promotion of energy-efficiency appliances and cars to public transportation to alternative fuel production as a substitute for drilling in environmentally-fragile areas like ANWR. By following Ethan's suggestions, our legislative legacy will be to leave the world a cleaner, safer and better place. If not, Ethan's generation will face the enormous task of cleaning up environmental disasters that we can act now to prevent.

Finally, I want to commend Ethan not just for his ideas but for his activism. He is not just asking Congress to act, relying on us to fix problems. Ethan wants to know what he can do as a young student who is concerned about the environment. Here, too, Ethan is sending a correct and compelling message: that the protection of the planet is everybody's business.

I know that, after reading Ethan's letter, my colleagues will be as impressed with his commitment and vision as I am. And, I hope that it will result in enactment of the legislative priorities that he has suggested we pursue.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SCHAKOWSKY: My name is Ethan Senser. I am in 7th grade at Sager Solomon Schechter Middle School in Northbrook, IL. I am very worried about global warming and how it will affect the world in the future. There are several things that I am concerned about. I am worried about air pollution from cars and factories. I am concerned with the rain forests. The rain forests are disappearing because of the need for lumber and grazing land for cattle. Forests are also being destroyed in this country for lumber. Forests are important because trees remove carbon dioxide from the air, a major greenhouse gas that causes global warming. They are also important animal habitats and many animals are in danger of becoming extinct because of their loss of a place to live and feed. With global warming I am also worried about the Polar ice caps melting and raising the sea level. If this happens cities that are on a coastline would be in serious danger of flooding.

I am hoping that Congress will do something to help stop global warming before it goes too far. I think that Congress should try to make more laws to really help the environment. They should make sure that there is no drilling for oil in the Alaskan nature preserve. Besides ruining animal habitats, tanker accidents can pollute the water. Congress should pressure auto companies to make more fuel efficient cars. They should give incentives for the development of alter-

native fuels. They should also try to get factories to find ways to produce their products in a safer, cleaner way. There should be more pressure on people to use public transportation. Also, people could be encouraged to use bikes more often. More cities should try to use Carpool lanes to get people to carpool. Companies should make environmental friendly products. Household appliances makers should do the same. More products should be made in recyclable containers. Paper products could be made on recycled paper as well as pop bottles. Many products are over packaged and should be sold in simpler, smaller packaging.

I am writing to you, Congresswoman Schakowsky, because I want to get involved in ways to help stop global warming. As a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and someone also very concerned about the environment, do you have any suggestions on how a middle school student can make a difference?

TRIBUTE TO RADIO STATION  
KALW

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Radio Station KALW for its continuing service to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area and to congratulate KALW on its fifty-fifth anniversary of operations.

KALW began broadcasting in 1941. It was the first FM radio station in San Francisco, the first educational FM station in the United States, the second non-commercial FM station in the country and the first non-commercial FM station west of the Mississippi River.

In a time of media consolidation, KALW maintains its independence and its dedication to local news. Its programs reflect the extraordinary richness and diversity of the people of the Bay Area.

KALW has received more than a dozen national excellence awards in the past five years for its exemplary news coverage. In its programs it draws on the expertise of a brain trust of local community members, including scholars, job coaches, musicians, independent bookstore owners and many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a remarkable national resource, radio station KALW, and extending to everyone involved with the station our congratulations on its fifty-fifth anniversary.